

the same thing for their children that we want for our children.

If we stand by the Iraqi people today and help them develop their young Iraqi-style democracy, they're going to be able to take responsibility for their own security. And when that day comes, our forces can come home, and that we will leave behind a stable country that can serve as an example for others and be an ally in this global struggle against those who would do us harm. It's tough work, but it's necessary work—work the United States has done before, and work the United States will complete now.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:13 a.m. at the Holiday Inn on the Hill. In his remarks, he referred to John M. Queen III, president-elect, National Cattlemen's Beef Association; President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; Lt. Gen. Abboud Gambar, Iraqi commander of Baghdad, Iraqi Army; Qais Khazali, member, Khazali network, and Shi'a extremist leader; and Haytham Kazim Abdallah Al-Shimari, head of the Rusafa Al Qaida-Iraq bomb network.

### **Proclamation 8118—National Donate Life Month, 2007**

*March 28, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Donating organs, marrow, and tissue is a kind and compassionate act that can protect and enhance the precious gift of life. During National Donate Life Month, we recognize the generosity of donors and raise awareness of the importance of donating.

In recent years, there has been great progress in this important effort, and the rate of organ donation has steadily increased—helping save thousands of lives. Despite this success, more than 95,000 Americans currently await organ transplants, and hundreds more are added to the transplant list each month. My Administration strongly supports organ, marrow, and tissue donation, and we are working with public and private groups

to help more citizens understand the impact of organ donation.

Americans who wish to become organ and tissue donors can register with their State's donor registry, designate their intent on their driver's license, and sign and carry donor cards, which are available at [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov). I urge all citizens to consider becoming donors and encourage all donors to inform their loved ones of their decision so their wishes can be fulfilled. Every human life holds inherent dignity and matchless value, and National Donate Life Month is an opportunity to celebrate our country's organ and tissue donors. The decision to donate the gift of life demonstrates the compassionate spirit of our Nation.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2007 as National Donate Life Month. I call upon health care professionals, volunteers, educators, government agencies, faith-based and community groups, and private organizations to help raise awareness of the urgent need for organ and tissue donors throughout our Nation.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:45 a.m., March 29, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 30.

### **Remarks at the Radio and Television Correspondents' Association Dinner**

*March 28, 2007*

Thank you, Brian. Laura and I are happy to be here. I'd like to thank the Radio and TV Correspondents' Association for providing dinner tonight. And I'd like to thank Senator Webb for providing security. *[Laughter]*

I'm glad to see everybody here is enjoying themselves. Don't think I haven't noticed all the drinking that's been going on—[*laughter*—in my State of the Union Address, I said we needed to increase the use of ethanol. [*Laughter*]

Well, where should I start? A year ago, my approval rating was in the thirties, my nominee for the Supreme Court had just withdrawn, and my Vice President had shot someone. [*Laughter*] Ahhh, those were the good old days. [*Laughter*] Sorry the Vice President couldn't be here. [*Laughter*] He's had a rough few weeks. To be honest, his feelings are kind of hurt. He said he was going on vacation to Afghanistan, where people like him. [*Laughter*]

You in the press certainly have had a lot to report lately. Take the current controversy. I have to admit, we really blew the way we let those attorneys go. You know you've botched it when people sympathize with lawyers. [*Laughter*]

Speaking of subpoenas, it's good to see Speaker Pelosi tonight. [*Laughter*] You know, some have wondered how the two of us would get along. Some say she's bossy; she's opinionated; she's not to be crossed—hey, I get along with my mother. [*Laughter*]

But between the Congress and the press, there is a lot of scrutiny in this job. Not a day goes by that I don't get scrutineered one way or the other. [*Laughter*] The press is a lot tougher the second term. It's reached the point I sometimes call on Helen Thomas just to hear a friendly voice. [*Laughter*]

No matter how tough it gets, however, I have no intention of becoming a lameduck President—unless, of course, Cheney accidentally shoots me in the leg. [*Laughter*] Hey, I have 664 days left in the White House, so technically, I'm a temporary-guest worker. [*Laughter*]

I'm considering what's next. President Clinton, of course, wrote a very successful Presidential memoirs, with 10,000 pages or something. [*Laughter*] I'm thinking of something really fun and creative for mine—you know, maybe a popup book. [*Laughter*] I'm considering a number of titles—which do you like: “How W Got His Groove Back”—[*laughter*]—“Who Moved My Presidency,” or “Tuesdays With Cheney”? [*Laughter*]

By the way, I'm not sure whether or not Senator Obama is here. The last I heard, he was not coming to the Radio and TV Correspondents' dinner—not enough press. [*Laughter*] People Magazine recently had a photo of the Senator there on the beach in Hawaii, his sleek, hairless pecs glistening in the surf. [*Laughter*] It shows how biased the press is. Have you ever seen a shot like that of Denny Hastert? [*Laughter*]

Before I do sit down, I do want to say a couple of things. I'm very happy one person who could not be here last year is here tonight, and that's Bob Woodruff. Bob, we know it hasn't been easy. We admire you all the more for what you've overcome and what you're still overcoming.

And, Ava and Christine and Nicole Bloom, many of us knew your dad. And I know life is hard without him. He was such a fine guy. But one thing we've all seen this evening is that he has fine daughters, and I know he would be really proud of you.

Someone who is not here tonight is Tony Snow. When Tony called me and told me the outcome of his surgery, my heart just sank. But I know Tony is a fighter. And, Tony, we're all looking forward to the day when you come back to the White House.

Last week, we all heard the news about Elizabeth Edwards, and again, your heart just sinks for what she and her family faces. And so to Bob Woodruff, the Bloom girls, Elizabeth Edwards, Tony Snow and, of course, our men and women in uniform, Laura and I and millions of other Americans are praying for you and your families.

May God bless you, and thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:40 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Brian Wilson, vice president and bureau chief for Washington, DC, FOX News; Helen Thomas, syndicated columnist, Hearst Newspapers, and member, White House press corps; ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff, who was injured in Iraq on January 29, 2006; Ava, Christine, and Nicole Bloom, daughters of former NBC reporter David Bloom, who died in 2003 while reporting in Iraq; and Elizabeth Edwards, wife of 2008 Presidential candidate John Edwards.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on Somalia**

*March 28, 2007*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Consistent with section 1226 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on Somalia. This report on our comprehensive regional strategy toward Somalia includes information about our strategy in the Horn of Africa and the efforts we are undertaking to eliminate the terrorist threat and promote stability in Somalia.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ike Skelton, chairman, and Duncan Hunter, ranking member, House Armed Services Committee; Tom Lantos, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Silvestre Reyes, chairman, and Peter Hoekstra, ranking member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Carl Levin, chairman, and John McCain, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and John D. Rockefeller IV, chairman, and Christopher S. Bond, ranking member, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 29.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With  
the House Republican Conference**

*March 29, 2007*

I want to thank the Republican leadership and the Republican Members of Congress for coming down to have a very frank and open discussion about issues facing our country. Yesterday I gave a speech, making it clear that I'll veto a bill that restricts our commanders on the ground in Iraq, a bill that doesn't fund our troops, a bill that's got too much spending on it. I made that clear to the Members.

We stand united in saying loud and clear that when we've got a troop in harm's way, we expect that troop to be fully funded; and

we've got commanders making tough decisions on the ground, we expect there to be no strings on our commanders; and that we expect the Congress to be wise about how they spend the people's money.

We spent time talking today about our strong belief that we've got to keep taxes low. And so we had a very productive session, a session of friends talking amongst friends, all aiming to put a strategy together of how we can work together to secure this Nation and keep it prosperous. And so I appreciate you all coming. You're welcome back at the White House any time you want to join us.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:28 a.m. on the North Portico at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Remarks on Presenting the  
Congressional Gold Medal to the  
Tuskegee Airmen**

*March 29, 2007*

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Madam Speaker, Mr. Leader, Members of Congress, Secretary Powell, distinguished guests: You know, the Speaker and I had the honor of having our picture taken with you, and as I walked into the rotunda, a place that, occasionally, I get invited up here and I walk into, I was impressed by the fact that I wasn't amongst heroes who were statues; I was impressed that I was amongst heroes who still live. I thank you for the honor you have brought to our country. And the medal you're about to receive means our country honors you, and rightly so.

And I want to thank Senator Carl Levin and Sergeant Rangel. [*Laughter*] Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for your leadership on this issue. I have a strong interest in World War II airmen; I was raised by one. He flew with a group of brave young men who endured difficult times in the defense of our country.

Yet for all they sacrificed and all they lost, in a way, they were very fortunate, because they never had the burden of having their every mission, their every success, their every failure viewed through the color of their skin.